

*ATHELGES* GERSTAECKER, 1862 (CRUSTACEA, ISOPODA):  
PROPOSED CONSERVATION. Z.N.(S.) 2207

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The object of this proposal is to stabilise the use of the generic name *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862, a name which has had almost uninterrupted use since its original publication. This involves both the suppression of an unused senior synonym and first-reviser action with respect to a generic name published simultaneously with *Athelges*.

2. The oldest available name for this genus of parasitic isopods is *Botryllofer* Dalyell, 1851: 252, pl. 67, fig. 6), based on a very brief description and a drawing of an animal "found among the residue of general marine collections" but without any specific name. Dalyell was "... unable to satisfy myself ... whether it is Crustacean, and whether a Parasite". Giard (1899: 47), evidently the first to recognise the true nature of *Botryllofer*, called it a synonym of *Athelges paguri* (Rathke, 1843) (*N.A. Acad. Caes. Leop. Car.*, vol. 20 (1): 57) and this has not since been questioned. Bonnier (1900: 213, fig. 39), Giard (*loc. cit.* and 1907: 327) and Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis (1923: 108) recognised that *Botryllofer* Dalyell, 1851, had priority over *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862 (or "Athelgue" Hesse, 1861), of which they considered it a synonym, but they all accepted *Athelges* as the valid name for the genus in question. Since 1923 the name *Botryllofer* has not been further mentioned, while *Athelges* was generally accepted. *Botryllofer* can thus be considered an unused senior synonym. The following references establish an *a priori* case for the conservation of *Athelges* (at least three times as many could be provided):

*Athelges aegyptius* Codreanu, Codreanu & Pike, 1965, *Crustaceana* vol. 9: 234-242

*A. bilobus* Sars, Bourdon, 1967, *Bull. Acad. Soc. Lorraine Sci.* vol. 6: 282

*A. bilobus* Sars, Stephensen, 1948, *Danmarks Fauna* vol. 53: 129-130

*A. caudata* [sic] Barnard, 1955, *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* vol. 43: 77-78

*A. cladophorus* Hesse, Stromberg, 1971, *Sarsia* vol. 47: 4

*A. japonicus* Shiino, 1958, *Rep. Fac. Fish. Mie Univ.* vol. 3: 69-71

*A. lacertosi* Pike, 1961, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (13) vol. 4: 221-223

*A. lorifera* Hesse, 1876, Pérez, 1934, *Arch. Zool. expér. gen.* vol. 75: 556-564

*A. paguri* (Rathke), Pike, 1953, *J. linn. Soc. London* vol. 42: 229-231

*A. pelagosae* Babić, 1912, Codreanu and others, 1965: 238

*A. takanoshimensis* Ishii, 1914, Shiino, 1934, *Mem. Coll. Sci. Kyoto Imp. Univ.* (B) vol. 9: 227-278

*A. tenuicaudis* Sars, 1898, Thorson, 1946, *Medd. Danm. Fiskeri Havsund* (Ser. Plankton) vol. 4: 340.

3. Hesse (1861) established two new genera and three new species of isopods parasitic on hermit crabs, "Genre Athelgue, Nobis" (: 91, 112) containing the species "Athelgue cladophore" (: 91) and "Athelgue fullode, Nobis" (: 97) and "Genre Prosthète" (: 109, 113) containing the species "Prosthète cannelée, Nobis" (: 109). He described all these taxa and illustrated the species. Hesse, in his numerous papers, preferred to denote his species with French vernacular rather than Latin names, and although he usually subsequently provided Latin equivalents for his new names, he did so for "Athelgue" only in 1876, and never for "Prosthète". However, whereas the accents show that "Prosthète cannelée" is unmistakably French, the cases of "Athelgue cladophore" and "fullode" are less clear (especially as Hesse printed all the names in italics).

4. Gerstaecker (1862: 558) in his review of Hesse's 1861 paper was in no doubt on the matter, for he remarked: "Verf. belegt die drei Parasiten mit den französischen Namen 'Athelgue cladophore', 'Ath. fullodes' [sic] und 'Prosthète cannelée' und überlässt es also den Benutzern seiner Mittheilung, dieselben mit den etwa gleichbedeutenden Benennungen *Athelges cladophorus*, *phyllodes* und *Prosthetus canaliculatus* in die Systematik einzuführen." He is the author of the names in current use.

5. Stebbing, on the other hand (1893: 409) considered *Athelgue* Hesse, 1861 a Latin name: "*Athelgue* Hesse, 1861, is spoken of as *Athelges* by Fritz Müller in 1870. *Athelges* is the form generally used." Further, Hesse himself (1876: 2) treated "Athelgue" as a Latin name in describing a new species "*Athelgue lorifère - Athelgue lorifera*, Nobis". This enhances the ambiguity surrounding the names "Athelgue", "cladophore" and "fullode" published in 1861, but it is certainly in the interests of stability that the names in current use should not be displaced. To put the matter beyond doubt, the Commission is requested to rule under its plenary powers that the names "Athelgue", "cladophore" and "fullode" as published by Hesse in 1861 are vernacular names not available under the Code ("Prosthète" and "cannelée" are clearly unavailable for that reason). Thereby *Athelges*, *cladophorus* and *fullodes* Gerstaecker, 1862, become available names and not unjustified emendations.

6. Bate & Westwood (1868: 242) placed "Athelgue fullode" in synonymy with *Phryxus paguri* Rathke, 1843 in *Athelges*. Similarly Sars (1898: 210) placed "Prosthète cannelée" in

synonymy with *A. paguri* and (: 211) designated the latter (invalidly) as type-species of *Athelges*. As he did not mention *A. fullodes* Gerstaecker, 1862, this cannot be construed as a subsequent designation under Article 69a (iv). As no valid type-designation for *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862 appears yet to have been made, I hereby designate *A. fullodes* Gerstaecker, 1862 as type-species.

7. The generic names *Athelges* and *Prosthetus* Gerstaecker, 1862, were published simultaneously and have always been regarded as synonyms. No formal first reviser action has, however, been traced, and I therefore now, acting in that capacity, designate *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862 as the valid name.

8. Hesse (1861: 114) proposed two new subfamilies for "Athelgue" and "Prosthète", using exactly the same names as those he had given to the genera. These names are thus clearly unavailable and have never been adopted as from Hesse's usage. The earliest available family-group name is ATHELGINAE Codreanu & Codreanu (1956: 119).

9. The fact that several Bopyrid generic names, namely *Parathelges* Bonnier, 1900, *Anathelges* Bonnier, 1900, and *Metathelges* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1923, are all derived from *Athelges* shows that the latter is well known. On the other hand the oldest available name for the genus, *Botryllofer* Dalyell, 1851, has not been adopted by any author and has never been cited in combination with a specific name.

10. The Commission is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers
  - (a) to declare that the names "Athelgue", "cladophore" and "fullode" as published by Hesse in 1861 are vernacular names, not available for use in zoological nomenclature;
  - (b) to suppress the generic name *Botryllofer* Dalyell, 1851, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the generic name *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862 (gender masculine), type-species, by designation herein, *Athelges fullodes* Gerstaecker, 1862, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *paguri* Rathke, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phryxus paguri*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the family-group name ATHELGINAE Codreanu & Codreanu, 1956 (type-genus *Athelges* Gerstaecker, 1862) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) "Athelgue" Hesse, 1861, declared unavailable under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above;
- (b) *Botryllofer* Dalyell, 1851, suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above;
- (c) "Prosthète" Hesse, 1861, a vernacular name;
- (6) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
- (a) "cladophore" Hesse, 1861, and (b) "fullode" Hesse, 1861, as published in the combinations "Athelgue cladophore" and "Athelgue fullode", declared unavailable under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above;
- (b) "cannelée" Hesse, 1861, as published in the combination "Prosthète" cannelée", a vernacular name.

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